



1. General Update

Health and Safety

COVID mitigations have changed slightly, but we are still exercising caution given case numbers in the local authority

- One way system
- Staggered Break/Lunch
- Face coverings to be worn when using school transport
- Face coverings to be worn when in communal areas of the school building unless eating lunch
- Break/Lunch to be spent outdoors where possible (weather dependent)
- No unannounced visits from guests, including parents/carers
- Gradual re-introduction of extra-curricular activity (shared with pupils and on twitter), supported study and school trips/visits

COVID Impact

COVID continues to have a significant impact on individual pupil and staff absence rates. We have been fortunate in that we have not been close to partial closure, but do recognise that local case numbers within Education are higher than they have been at any time during the pandemic. Staff management of absence has allowed us to avoid requesting partial closure.

SQA Update

Subject study guides were released by SQA last week. Staff feedback varies from subject to subject. In response to some feedback from the wider public, SQA intend to release a number of updates this week. Pupils will be notified on a subject by subject basis. We encourage pupils to listen to the guidance of staff when interpreting the type of study advice offered by SQA. We are slightly concerned that some pupils may overestimate the impact that access to study guides will have on final grades.

Parents' Evenings

S3, S4 and S5/6 Parents' Evenings have passed, S2 takes place on 23rd March with S1 in early May. Feedback has been broadly positive with some frustrations also expressed around the length of appointment time and technical issues. From our end, the majority of technical problems have been at parent side with a handful of mainly sound issues at our end. The length of appointments is no different to what it was when face to face, and there are definite challenges in increasing the length of appointments, but we will consider all feedback before making a decision about next session.

Options Update

Subject study guides were released by SQA last week. Staff feedback varies from subject to subject. In response to some feedback from the wider public, SQA intend to release a number of updates this week. Pupils will be notified on a subject by subject basis. We encourage pupils to listen to the guidance of staff when interpreting the type of study advice offered by SQA. We are slightly concerned that some pupils may overestimate the impact that access to study guides will have on final grades.

INSIGHT Results Release

Scottish Government attainment data for the latest set of school leavers was published last week. Initial analysis shows:

- We continue to perform above our Virtual Comparator at SCQF4 and SCQF5 in terms of combined attainment in Literacy and Numeracy
- Literacy attainment at SCQF5 is above our Virtual Comparator for the first time in five years (linked to revised presentation policy for the cohort to have left)
- The total Tariff Points attained by the lowest 20%, middle 60% and highest 20% of school leavers is above the Virtual Comparator and East Ayrshire figure at all levels
- Attainment for the Lowest 20% of learners has continued to steadily improve and is 300% higher than what it was in 2018
- A wider range of Advanced Highers has contributed significantly to improvements for the Highest 20%
- The middle 60% are above East Ayrshire average for the first time in four years
- East Ayrshire as an authority returned our highest positive destination figures on record, our figure of 94% matches that local authority figure

Vision, Values and Aims

Further to Mrs Shearer's update at the last Parent Council meeting, please find attached a PDF summary of our revised Vision, Values and Aims. In addition, Fr. Martin has worked with a group of pupils to rewrite the school prayer with a draft expected in the coming weeks.

Revision of our Vision, Values and Aims and LearnWell were already planned, but also relate directly to the inspection report pre-COVID. We are pleased to have made progress on our Vision, Values and Aims and LearnWell during a time of competing pressures and uncertainty.

PEF

Today we received indicative PEF figures for the next four sessions. Our Improvement Planning cycle will start formally once we have created the timetable for next session. Figures look broadly similar to those we are already in receipt of, with a slight drop explained in part by a similar drop in roll. Review of current PEF impact prior to end of session 2022/23.

School Handbook

The handbook was published last month and is available via the EAC Handbook page and our school website.

Transition Meetings and Visits

Miss Cathie, Mrs Hoy, Mr Boyle and PC Dempster have continued to visit associated primary schools and join formal transition meetings. With restrictions easing, we are keen that we can go ahead with formal visits in June but will confirm as and when final decision are taken.

SCIAF Fundraising

SCIAF fundraising is ongoing. We enjoyed a sponsored walk last week and the wee box campaign is up and running. There is no obligation for any pupil to contribute to any fundraising, but as a Catholic school we value and recognise the importance of almsgiving during Lent where possible.

Notable Events/Achievements

- Our S3 Barclays Lifeskills group won best pitch in the regional event hosted in early March.
- Kellogg's has shortlisted our school for the Breakfast Club awards. Breakfast Club is PEF funded but has been unable to run for the majority of this session. We hope that after Easter, we can resume Breakfast Club.
- Our athletics team performed admirably at the Emirates Arena, with Lewis and Abigail returning new personal bests and two bronze medals. Lewis also won a Gold medal and beat another personal best on day two
- Our Senior School Football team are through to the Quarter Finals of the Scottish Cup where we take on Broughton High School on Tuesday 15th March

Staffing

Mrs Kelly (English) has returned from maternity leave. Miss Gibson (Social Subjects) has started maternity leave and was already covered by Miss Brogan (Social Subjects).

Mrs Parker (Acting PT Pastoral Care) has intimated that she wishes to return to her classroom teacher post as of August. As Mrs Burnett is seconded until February 2023, we have advertised internally for someone to take on the Acting role from August 2022 until February 2023. Interviews will take place on Thursday 17th March 2022.

The wider staffing exercise for session 2022/23 is ongoing, and an update will be provided when final decisions are made.

We have one Classroom Assistant vacancy, with a closing date of Sunday 24th March 2022.